

# Jumong

## Founder of Goguryeo

on myths of Korea are valuable and interesting stories that tell  
s of the Korean people. Of course, myths are not to be taken as  
arate accounts of the first Koreans, but they do help us to see  
culture has constructed its own unique story. The details can  
d in many ways, but the first and best interpretation is the first  
t reading of the story. Each story is filled with magic and  
s of the inexplicable, and therein lies the appeal and the  
the stories. The reader should not worry about what is true  
ut rather enjoy the story and realize that Koreans do too. And  
joyed these stories for hundreds, if not thousands, of years.



Mark Peterson  
Professor of Korean Studies  
Brigham Young University



Jumong: Founder of Goguryeo



Based on an original story by Iryeon  
Written by Kim Seong eun  
Illustrated by Lee Jiwon  
Translated by Christian J. Park

12,000 won / US\$ 14.00



ISBN 978-89-91913-49-3

Seoul Selection









In the far distance, a **red sun** rises, pushing away the darkness.

And behold! A **three-legged raven** bursts out of the sun and soars majestically into the sky.

People who saw this knew that a **hero had been born** for a new era.

It was an announcement to the world that a kingdom that would rule over a vast land, **Goguryeo**, had been founded.





# Jumong: Founder of Goguryeo

Written by Kim Seong eun

Illustrated by Lee Jiwon

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## The Academy of Korean Studies

110 Haogogae-gil, Bundang-gu, Seongnam-si, Gyeonggi-do 463-791,

Republic of Korea

Phone (82-31) 709-8111

<http://www.aks.ac.kr>

email: [cikc@aks.ac.kr](mailto:cikc@aks.ac.kr)

## Published by Seoul Selection

B1 Korean Publishers Association Bldg., 105-2 Sagan-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul

110-190, Republic of Korea

Phone (82-2) 734-9567

Fax (82-2) 734-9562

<http://www.seoulselection.com>

email: [publisher@seoulselection.com](mailto:publisher@seoulselection.com)

ISBN: 978-89-91913-49-3 77900

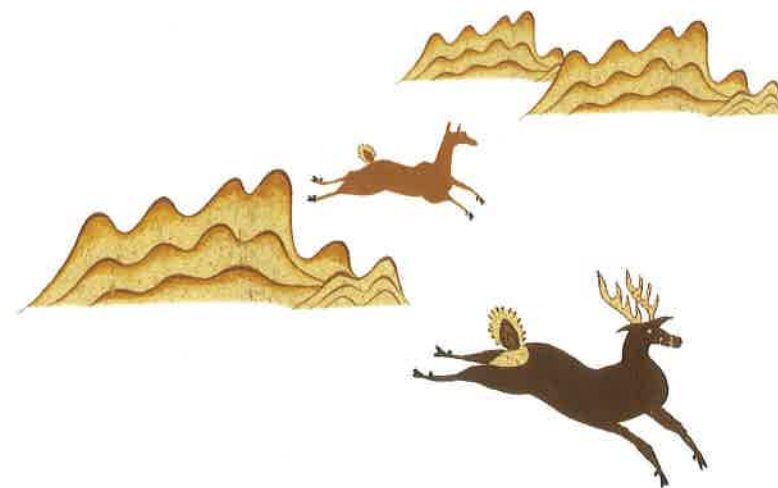
Printed in the Republic of Korea

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# Jumong

## Founder of Goguryeo

Written by Kim Seong eun | Illustrated by Lee Jiwon | Translated by Christian J. Park







Once upon a time, a king named Geumwa ruled over a kingdom called Buyeo.

One day, King Geumwa went hunting on Taebaek Mountain (today's Baekdu Mountain) and met a woman.



The woman was sitting and crying all alone by the bank of the Ubalsu River, located to the south of Taebaek Mountain.

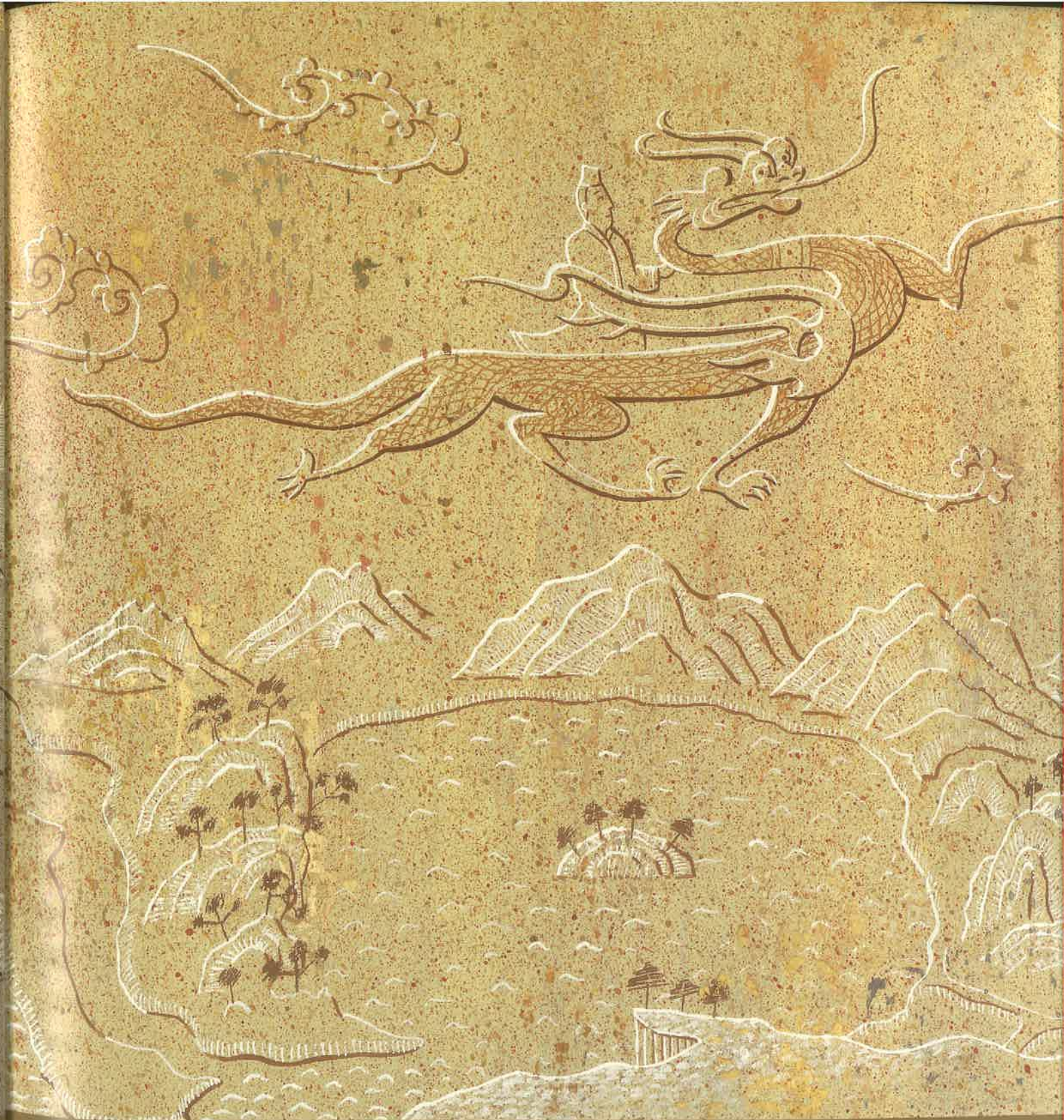
King Geumwa became curious and asked why she was crying.





"I am Yuhwa, daughter of Habaek, the god of water," she said.

"I came up on land to play with my sisters, and I met Haemosu, a son of the king of the gods. We fell in love and were married by the Amnok River.

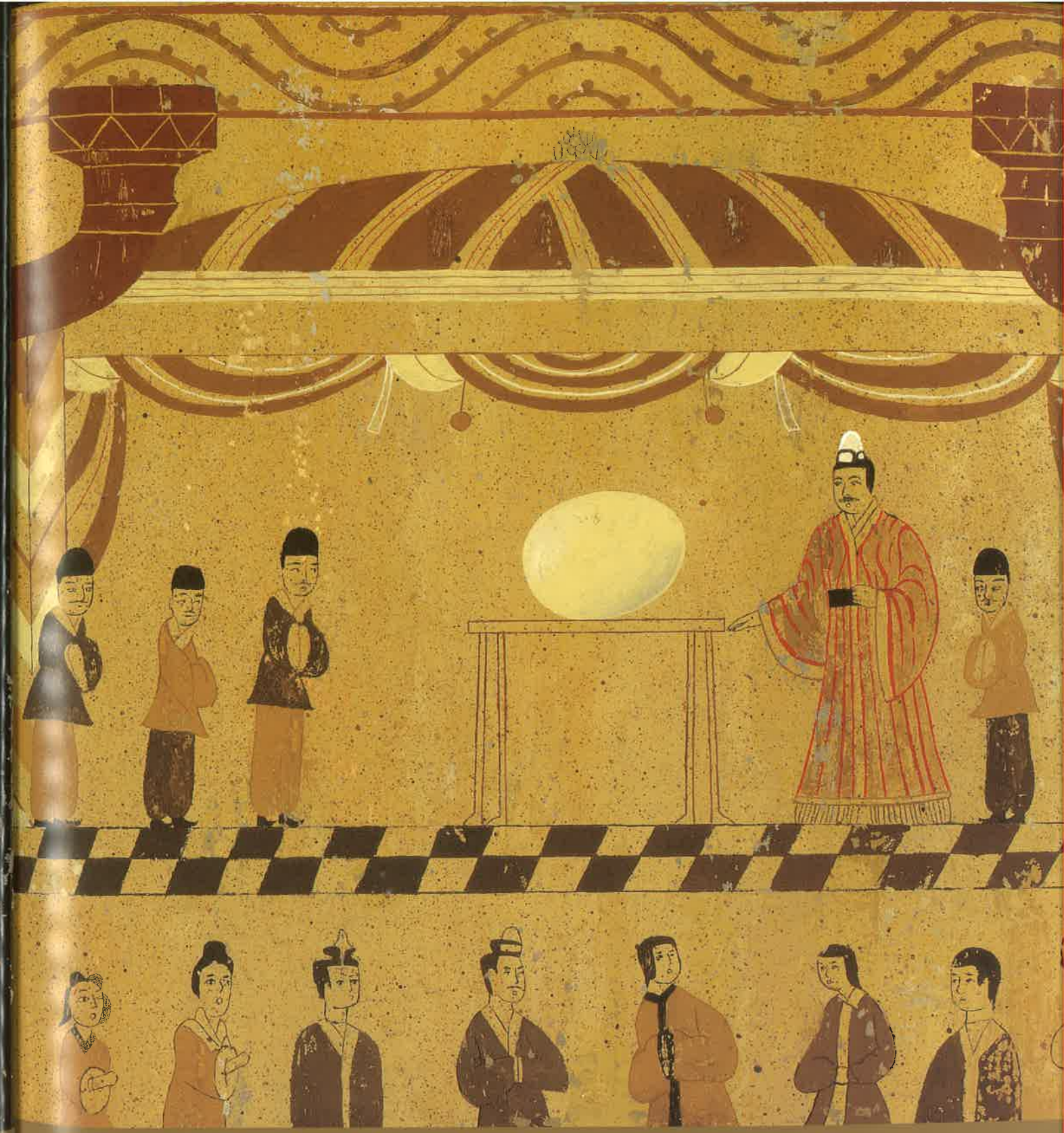


But one day, Haemosu suddenly returned to Heaven. My parents became angry when they heard that I had married someone without their approval, and they had me sent away to this place."





King Geumwa felt that he could not leave behind Yuhwa, the wife of Haemosu, and so he brought her to live in his palace. One day, bright sunlight entered Yuhwa's bedroom and shone on her. Whenever she moved, the light followed.



Soon, Yuhwa's belly started to grow, and she eventually laid a giant egg. But when King Geumwa heard the news, he thought that this was a bad omen and ordered the egg removed immediately.

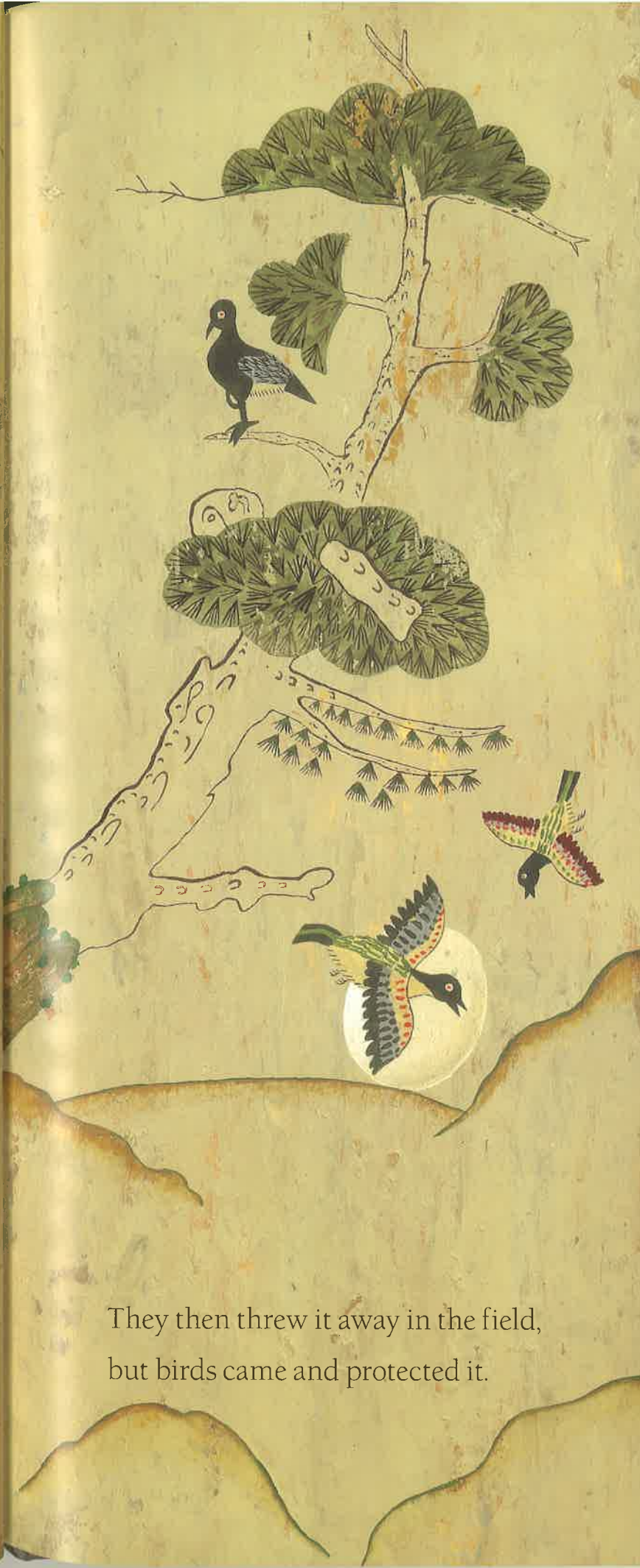




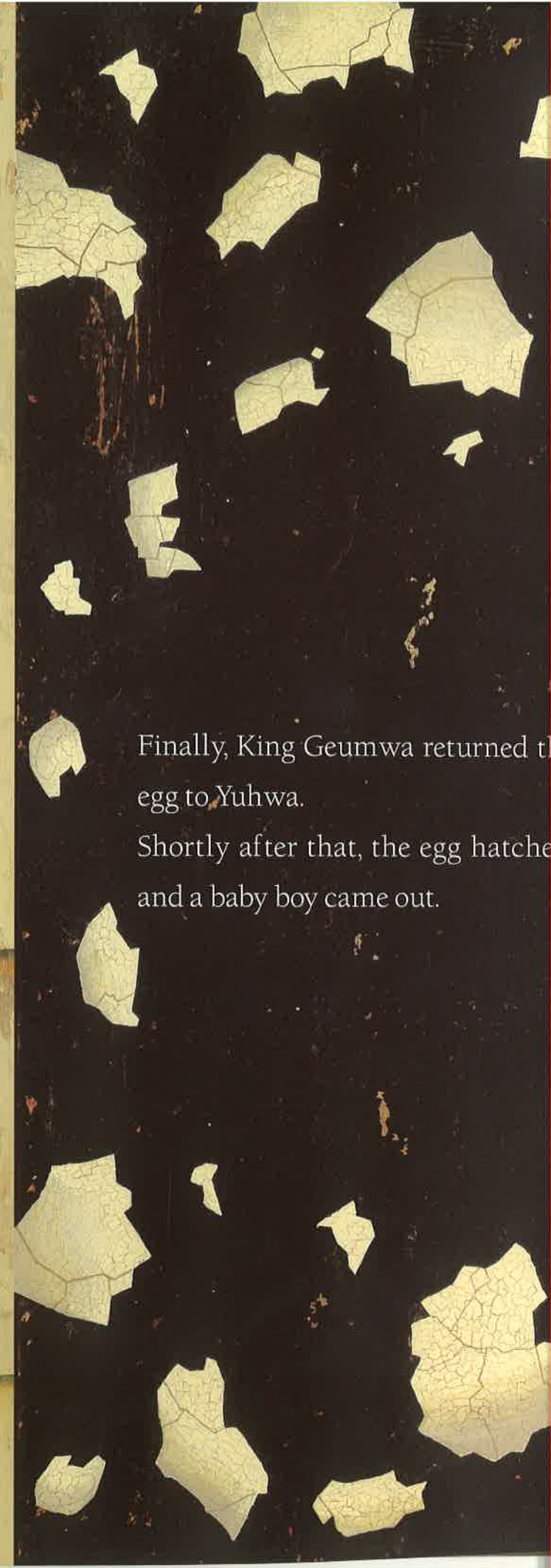
servants threw the egg away in a pigsty,  
but the pigs would not eat it.



They then threw it away in the street,  
but the horses and cows went  
around the egg.



They then threw it away in the field,  
but birds came and protected it.



Finally, King Geumwa returned the  
egg to Yuhwa.  
Shortly after that, the egg hatched  
and a baby boy came out.





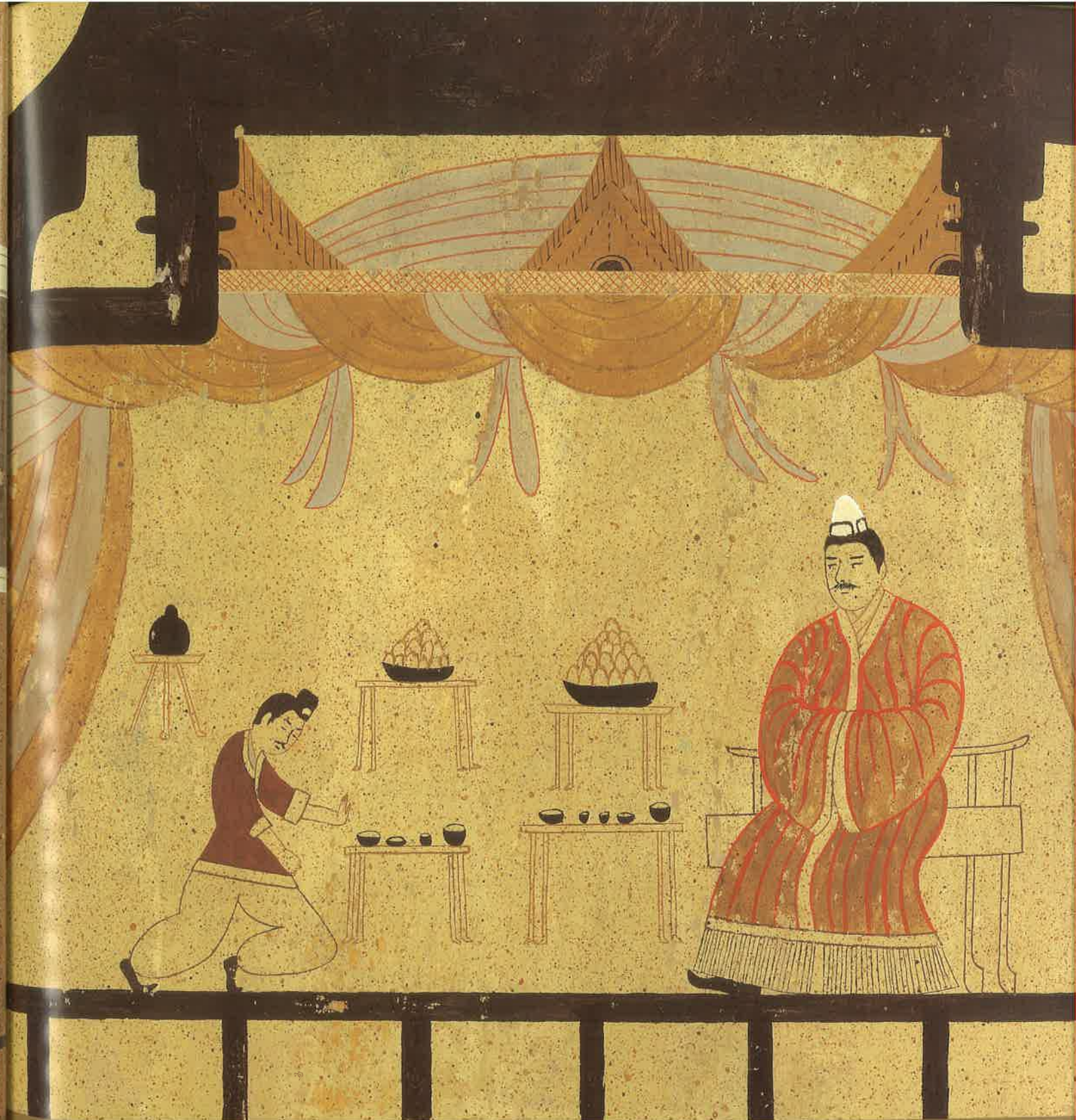
When the boy turned seven, he made a bow and arrow all by himself. He then learned to shoot so well that he could shoot down a fly in midair. The people of Buyeo called great archers "jumong," and so the boy was named Jumong.

He grew up to be a tall and handsome man and often went hunting with King Geumwa and his seven princes. The princes rode around all over the mountain to catch one deer, while Jumong caught ten deer all by himself. Many people praised him, saying he had a heavenly gift, and followed him.





Soon, the princes became jealous of Jumong.  
Especially, Prince Daeso, who was next in line to the throne, began to despise Jumong, who received everyone's attention.



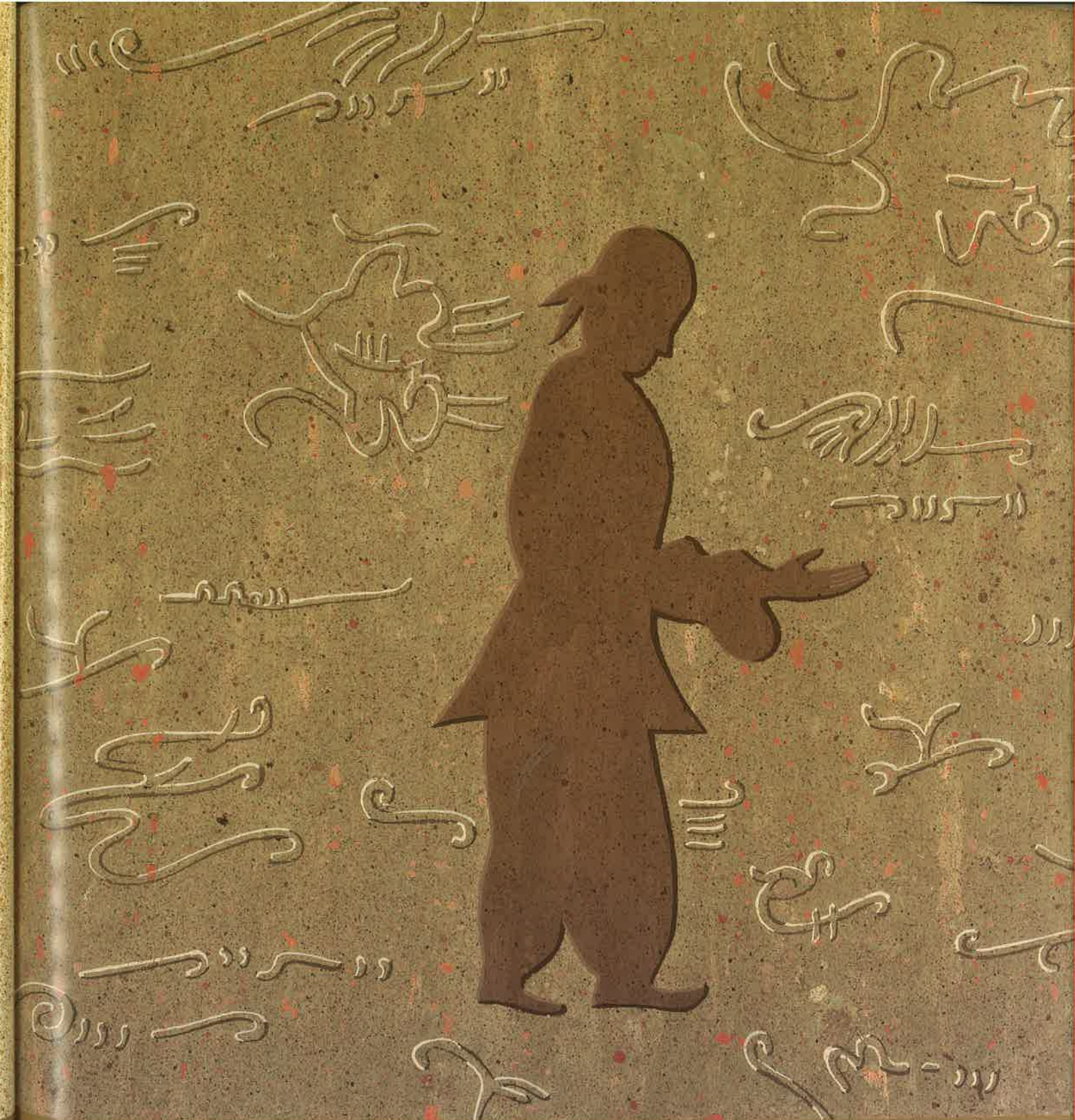
One day, Prince Daeso went up to King Geumwa and whispered in his ear: "Jumong is a very dangerous man. Left alone, he will bring great disaster to this kingdom."  
So King Geumwa had Jumong sent to the stable and decided to keep an eye on him.





Jumong worked all day in the smelly stable.

From dawn to late night, he had to feed the horses and clean out the manure. He felt miserable.



With a deep sigh, he cried out, "Good grief! Can this be any better than dying? I thought I could be someone special, but look at my miserable life now." Tears ran down from his eyes.





A few months passed.

One day, King Geumwa visited the stable and saw how Jumong was doing. Like any other day, Jumong was working hard like a true stableman, sweaty and smelly.

The horses were well groomed and well fed, as their hair was shiny and their bodies well rounded. King Geumwa was very happy to find his horses in great shape. The King rode the most beautiful horse home and gave the thinnest and ugliest horse to Jumong.





Jumong was overjoyed. The horse he received was in fact a “cheollima,” which could run for 250 miles without rest.

He knew from the first time he saw the horse that it was a very special horse, and he intentionally gave it little feed to make it look thin.



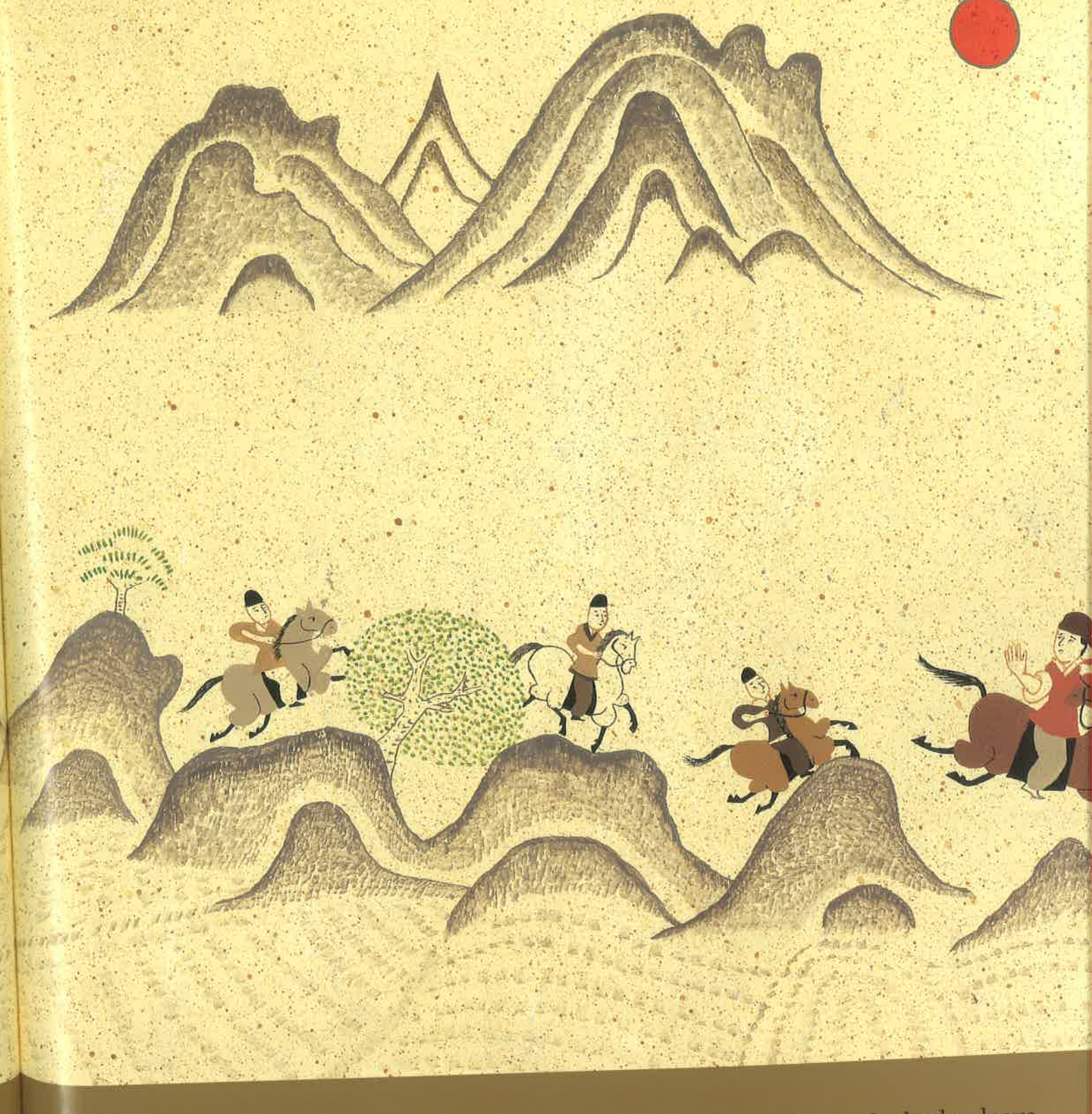
Jumong knew that King Geumwa would come around to check on him someday and that he would offer to give Jumong a horse.

Once King Geumwa left, Jumong raised the cheollima with great care and began to dream of founding a new kingdom.



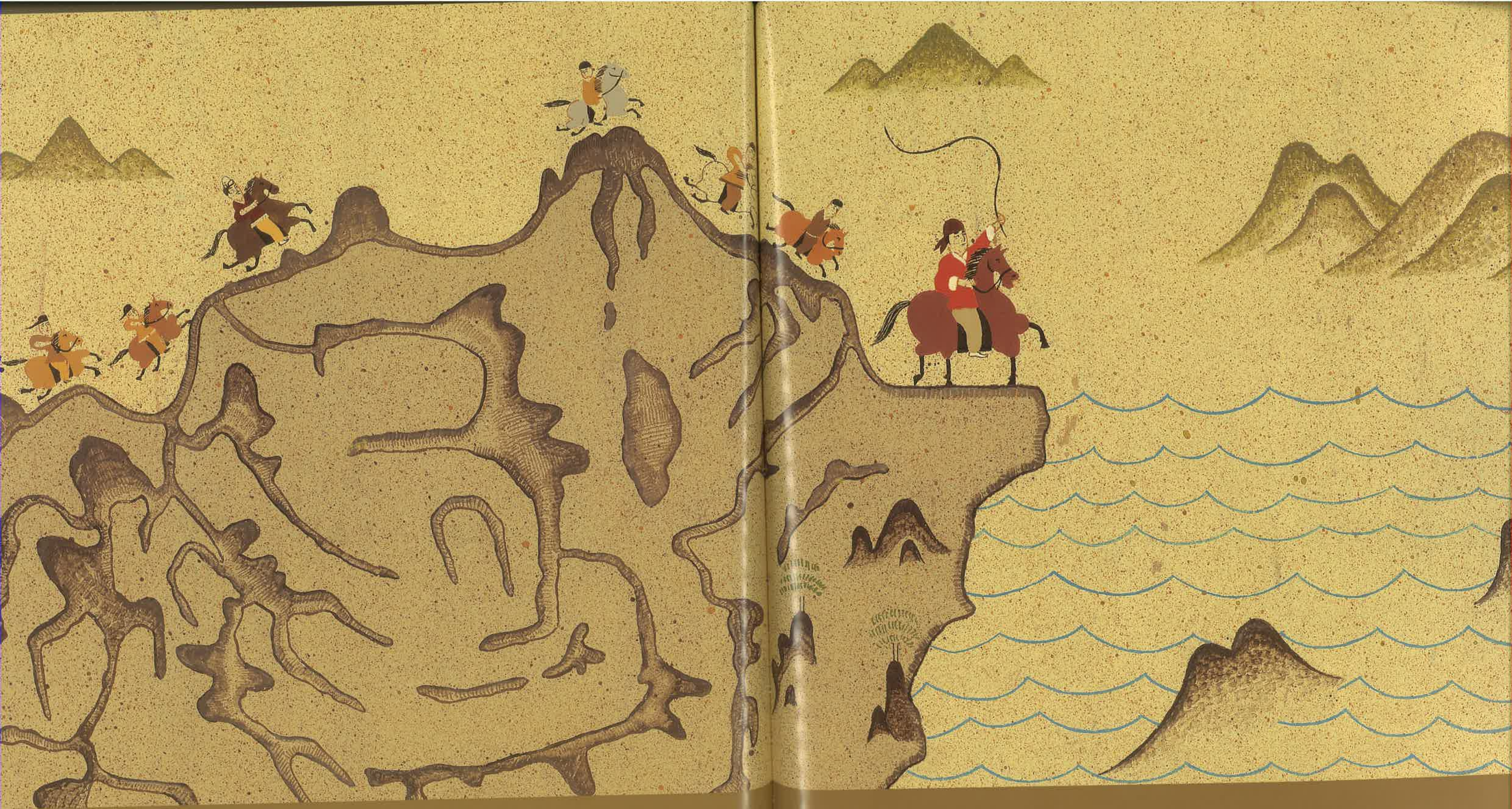


In the meantime, the princes of Buyeo and their followers began to conspire to harm Jumong. It was Lady Yuhwa who heard the news and went to Jumong to tell him; "My dear son Jumong! People are trying to hurt you. You must leave this place at once and go find your own kingdom."



Jumong's heart was greatly saddened by the thought that he had to leave his mother behind, but he decided to leave Buyeo to pursue his great dream. So the day came when Jumong took off on a journey, riding his cheollima and accompanied by his three wise and fearless friends, Oi, Mari, and Hyeopbo.





Jumong travelled south all day and night in search of a new land. One morning, as the sun was rising, Jumong and his friends came upon the Eomsu River. At that moment, he heard the loud sound of horses' hooves. This was the sound of soldiers on horseback, sent by Prince Daeso to kill Jumong.

The deep river flowed in front and a band of soldiers was speedily approaching from the back. What now? He was trapped. So Jumong cried out to the heavens, "Hear me, oh Lord! I am your descendant and a grandson of Habaek, the god of water. I am in danger. What shall I do?"





Suddenly, an army of fish and turtles surfaced above the water, creating a bridge. Without a moment to waste, Jumong and his three friends quickly crossed the river.

When Prince Daeso's soldiers attempted to cross the bridge, the fish and turtles submerged and disappeared into the river.

Safe at last, Jumong continued to ride south.

Along the way, he met many people who admired him greatly and followed him.

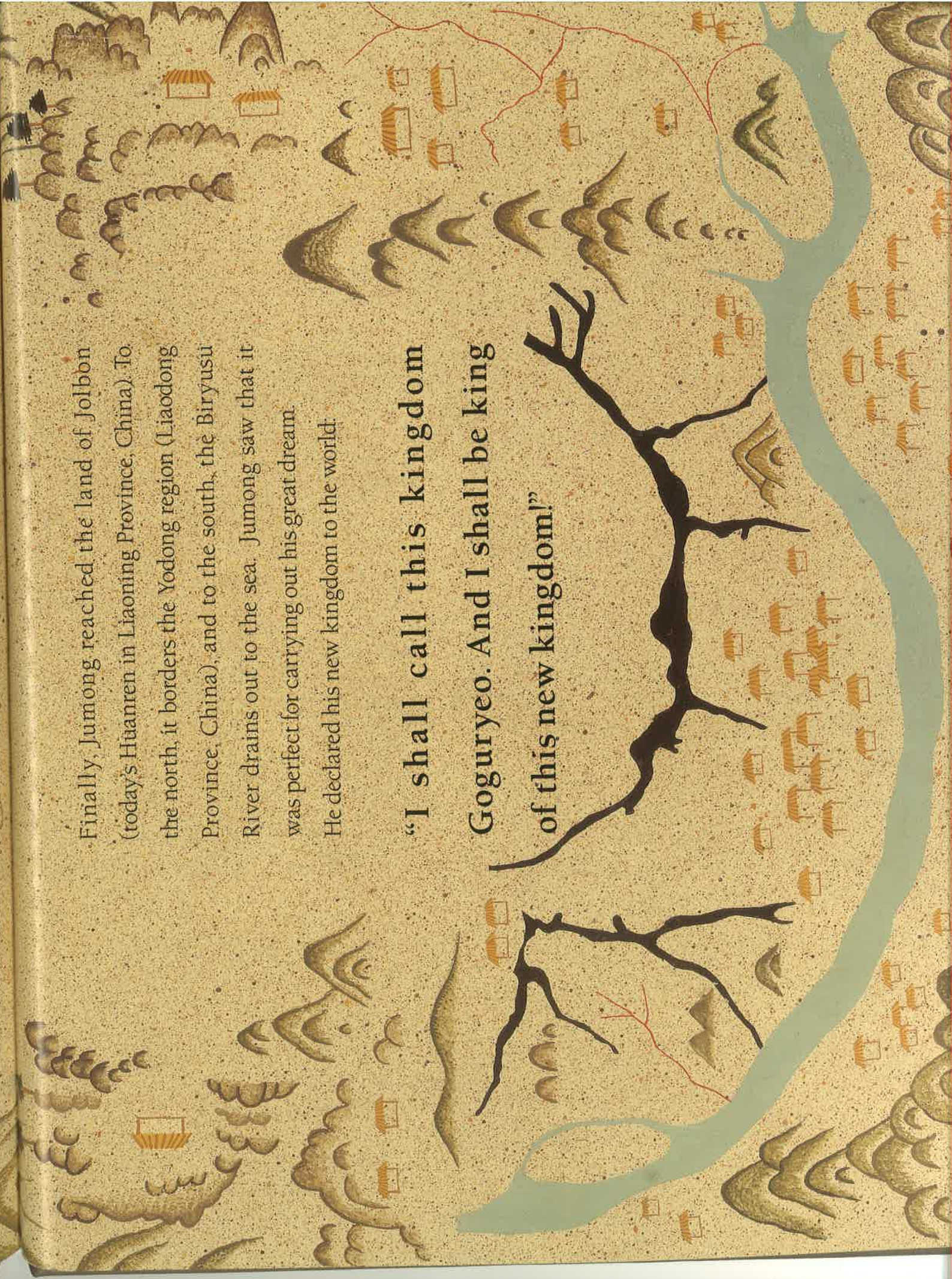
Soon, his followers grew immensely.





Finally, Jumong reached the land of Jolbon (today's Huanren in Liaoning Province, China). To the north, it borders the Yodong region (Liaodong Province, China), and to the south, the Biryusu River drains out to the sea. Jumong saw that it was perfect for carrying out his great dream. He declared his new kingdom to the world:

"I shall call this kingdom  
Goguryeo. And I shall be king  
of this new kingdom!"







Goguryeo grew more and more. And neighboring tribes came to Jumong and requested to become his subjects, the people of Goguryeo.

The people worked hard cultivating the land and sowing seeds. Soon, the kingdom's food and wealth were plentiful.

Jumong built a fortress on the Onyeo Mountain to defend against any foreign invasion, and he built a palace to give his kingdom a regal splendor.

Having everything a kingdom needs, the sun of Goguryeo rose up high to shine for another 700 years of glory.



# INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SOUTH KOREA



Han River



Military police in the JSA



Bibimbap



Rose of Sharon, the national flower



King Sejong the Great



Did you know that the official name of South Korea is the Republic of Korea?

Here are some more interesting facts.

## Where is South Korea?

South Korea is a small country located at the far eastern end of Asia between latitudes 33°N and 39°N. To the west is the Yellow Sea and China, while to the east is the East Sea and Japan. It has four distinct seasons with a humid continental climate.

making it similar to Romania and the United Kingdom.

## What is the population of South Korea?

There are 48 million people living in South Korea. Most of them are Koreans. However, the number of foreigners living in South Korea is slowly increasing.

## How big is it?

Its land area is about 100,000km<sup>2</sup> (38,610 sq mi), similar to that of Hungary and Portugal. It is a country with a very long history of a few thousand years. Tragically, the Korean Peninsula was divided into North and South Korea after the Korean War, which ended in 1953. This is why the Korean people all yearn for the day when North and South Korea become one. The size of North and South Korea combined is about 220,000km<sup>2</sup> (85,000 sq mi),



## Did you know that the capital of South Korea is Seoul?

Seoul is South Korea's center of politics, economy, and culture. With around 10 million people living there, it is one of the biggest cities in the world.

## What language do you think the Koreans use?

Koreans speak Korean and write using a Korean alphabet called Hangeul.

Hangeul is the native alphabet of the Korean language, created by King Sejong of the ancient Joseon Dynasty in 1443. Originally, it consisted of 28 letters, but only 24 are used today. With 24 phonemic letters, Hangeul can express almost every sound in writing.

One of its outstanding features is that it is very easy to learn. The shapes of the letters resemble the shapes of parts of bodies that make sound, making its design easy to understand. This is why the illiteracy rate in South Korea is below 2%. Another interesting fact about Hangeul is that we know clearly when the language was made, why, and by whom.

healthy food that increases one's immune system against viruses. Bulgogi and bibimbap, a dish made with warm white rice mixed with various sautéed and seasoned "namul," or vegetables, are popular foods among Koreans that are enjoyed even by foreigners. Bulgogi, or Korean-style barbecued beef, is one of the most popular ways of cooking marinated beef.



## What are Koreans' favorite foods?

Koreans' favorite foods are rice, or "bap," and gimchi. Gimchi is a side dish made with fermented vegetables and various seasonings. Rich in various vitamins and minerals, it has the reputation of being a



## Have you heard about the Miracle on the Han River?

Despite the tragic Korean War, South Koreans courageously recovered from the pain and achieved a remarkable economic growth later called the Miracle on the Han River. The Han River is the main river that passes through Seoul, the capital of South Korea. Today, South Korea is a newly industrialized country (NIC) with the 10th biggest economy in the world.

Well, if you think these facts are interesting, wait until you see the Korean people face to face. Come and visit us and the beautiful land of South Korea in the far east of Asia.



